



TEXAS A&M PHYSICIANS

NOTICE OF PRACTICE CLOSURE

TEXAS A&M PHYSICIANS/BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES

DR. JOSEPH SOKAL

Re: Resignation of Dr. Joseph Sokal

Dear Patients:

I need to inform you that I have resigned from Texas A&M Physicians Behavioral Health Services (TAMP). I will be closing out my practice over the next 4-8 weeks. At this time, the remaining TAMP psychiatrists are unable accept new patients due to their full case load.

Continuity of your psychiatric care is extremely important. You can contact the following local psychiatrist to transfer care or contact your insurance company to provide a list of recommended providers.

Dr. Mahesh Dave

1201 D Briarcrest Drive

Bryan, TX

979-776-5600

Dr. Lorene Henry

1605 Rock Prairie Rd. Ste 210

College Station, TX 77845

979-696-5883

It may also be reasonable to transfer to your primary care physician or to a primary care physician within Texas A&M Physicians. You can schedule an appointment with TAMP primary care physician by calling 979-776-8440.

Your medical records are confidential. A copy can be transferred to another provider only with your permission. If you would like your records transferred to another provider, please sign the enclosed authorizations and return the release to the following address or fax to 979-776-6905.

2900 E. 29<sup>th</sup> Street

ATTN: MEDICAL RECORDS

Bryan, TX 77802

On a personal note, it has been a pleasure and honor to serve you. I greatly hope you will stay focused on getting the help you need and taking good care of yourself.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Joseph Sokal, M.D. in black ink. The signature is fluid and cursive, with 'Joseph Sokal' on the left and 'M.D.' on the right, followed by the date '5/14/13'.

Joseph Sokal, M.D.

**Medina, Christopher J.** 01/18/1981

Office/Outpatient Visit

**Visit Date:** Tue, Apr 2, 2013 08 30 am

**Provider:** Joseph Sokal, MD (Supervisor Joseph Sokal, MD)

**Location:** Psychiatry and Behavioral Health

Electronically signed by Joseph Sokal, MD on 04/02/2013 09 07 55 AM

Printed on 04/02/2013 at 9.08 am

## **SUBJECTIVE:**

**CC:** Mood disorder, Unhappy with current dx

**HPI:** CM returns today because he is pursuing disability and feels that the correct dx is bipolar but that is not how Dr. Potts dx him. I let him know that I do not know him well enough and do not have enough records to determine the best fit dx. I acknowledged that after his initial visit I had significant dx uncertainty. I also let him know that for the most part I do not help a patient pursue disability without having had a treatment relationship of about a year. He is currently taking Cymbalta which he got from his pain management doctor but he continues to reveal a negative world view in which he is almost always misunderstood and victimized. He reports multiple conflicts with others including his current therapist Paul Johnson. He would like me to call Paul Johnson to discuss his case which I agree to do. He also would like his medical records which I agree to provide.

### **ROS:**

CONSTITUTIONAL Positive for **fatigue** ( mild ).

MUSCULOSKELETAL Positive for **back pain and walks with a cane**.

## **OBJECTIVE:**

### **Exams:**

MENTAL STATUS EXAM

GENERAL APPEARANCE: ( well developed, walks with a cane; **anxious** )

MOTORIC BEHAVIOR: ( No AIMS )

ATTITUDE ( guarded, seems paranoid )

MOOD: ( sad )

AFFECT. ( appropriate to content )

SPEECH: ( rambling )

PERCEPTUAL DISORDERS ( None )

THOUGHT CONTENT ( Fleeting HI no intent )

THOUGHT PROCESS ( illogical, tangential, perseveration )

SENSORIUM ( clear )

CONCENTRATION AND CALCULATION ( Patient's ability to pay attention is limited ).

INTELLIGENCE/FUND OF KNOWLEDGE ( Patient's is of average intelligence Patient's fund of knowledge is average )

JUDGEMENT. fair judgement;

INSIGHT unable to assess,

**ASSESSMENT:** CM was hoping that I might be able to diagnose him with bipolar. I let him know that I do not know what the best fit dx is for him. I am convinced that he does have a formal thought disorder, is paranoid and that almost all of his relationships are highly conflicted. I have agreed to talk with his therapist. I have suggested he get comprehensive psych testing. I congratulated him on his ongoing sobriety.

296.90 Unspecified episodic mood disorder

303.93 Alcohol dependence, unspecified, in remission

298.9 Thought disorder

## **ORDERS:**

### **Other Orders:**

Psychotherapy pt&/family w/E&M svcs 30 min (In-House)

**Medina, Christopher J.** 01/18/1981

Office/Outpatient Visit

**Visit Date:** Thu, Jan 3, 2013 11:00 am

**Provider:** Joseph Sokal, MD (Supervisor: Joseph Sokal, MD)

**Location:** Psychiatry and Behavioral Health

Electronically signed by Joseph Sokal, MD on 01/03/2013 12:43:00 PM

Printed on 04/02/2013 at 9:08 am.

**SUBJECTIVE:**

**CC:** H/O bipolar disorder, depression, alcohol and sex addiction, chronic pain

**HPI:** CM is a 31 y.o. married hispanic male with an unstable and chaotic childhood that included sexual abuse who began drinking at 13 y.o. and who has struggled with a broad range of psychiatric symptoms since that time. He is both avoidant and highly circumstantial and the history he provides is fragmented and difficult to follow. His primary concern is his physical pain and he makes it clear that is his priority even as he touches upon several psychiatric issues. He has been sober for the last two years and attends AA and has a sponsor. He also has a therapist who he says has helped him control his anxiety. However he has been looking at online dating sites and also porn which he says will typically lead him to acting out. He wants to stop but is unable to control himself. His wife has been on him about this which leads to conflict between them. He says he knows he needs to go to treatment center for this problem but when I ask him if he is pursuing this he provides several reasons why he isn't. He has been physically violent towards her in the past and says that he sometimes will threaten to kill her if she leaves him and takes their daughter. He says that when he makes these threats both he and she know he doesn't mean it. He says that he was referred her by Dr. Friedman who believes many of his pain complaints and problems are ' psychological in nature.' . He reports being in disputes with his PCP, insurance company and Dr. Friedman and tends to externalize his problems. He denies being depressed although he c/o of chronic shoulder and global pain while commenting, ' you'd be sad to if your body hurt all the time.' He says that Dr. Friedman was no longer willing to provide him ativan and his primary agenda in seeing me is to get ativan which he says helps stop painful muscle spasms and also diminishes his anxiety. He describes his anxiety as feeling shaky in the morning or feeling ' weird... like my body isn't right.' He acknowledges believing that unless his pain gets treated he will die. He says that he has discussed this with his physicians all of whom think this is crazy. He denies SI but acknowledges thinking sometimes that being dead would relieve him of pain. He also feels like he is a burden on others. He remains in a dispute with his ex-wife over child care of their son and has recently reported her to CPS because he believes she is neglecting their boy who has ADHD. He says her son told him that she is having sex for money with him in the house. He denies current or past psychotic symptoms. When I ask him about his symptoms pattern when depressed he is vague and it is difficult to confirm adh/o of Major Depressive Episodes. I also asked him about manic episodes and got a similarly opaque response. I reviewed the symptoms with him and he denied most of them but when I asked about the full syndrome he said, ' I'm sure I've had something like that.' Denies self mutilation.

**PMH/FMH/SH:** PPHX- One suicide attempt by lighting his own shirt on fire in 2009. He says he put the fire out himself however he was voluntarily admitted to ASH at that time. Denies any other hospitalizations or suicide attempts. Reports being treated for depression in the army with sertraline. He says it caused diarrhea and he stopped it. . Was also treated in the MHMR with Abilify at which time he was dx. with bipolar disorder. Unable to get clear symptom picture and related history to confirm or refute dx.

PMHX- Cervical spondylosis without myelopathy, hyperhidrosis, scrotal pain

Meds- Ativan, Ibuprofen, Robinul

ALL- Neurontin and Oxybutin- sounds more like med side effects eg shaking and nausea

FHx- Father Bipolar, Aunt Schizophrenia

SHx- One of two raised by mother and grandparents. Was close to grandfather and moved between grandparents and his mother and stepfathers house. Was sexually molested by an older male neighbor who taught he and his brother to fondle each other. Was a good student and was also an accomplished wrestler going to the state championships. Began binge drinking at 13 and also used cocaine. Says that he was ' taken advantage of by some fellow soldiers when he was doing cocaine with them in the service. Has done mostly manual labor but says he was very smart in school but he moved a lot and his drinking prevented him from being in the top ten of his class. His first marriage was stormy and he and his wife were ' swingers.' His current wife is older than him. He has trouble trusting her and sometimes feels she manipulates him into fights. He is currently embroiled in several conflicts: 1. With insurance company over getting an MRI, 2. With Dr. Friedman over ativan 3. With ex wife over child care- has gone to CPS 4. He apparently was charged with criminal trespass for going back into the hospital after he was discharged- details vague.

MSE- 31 y.o. short hispanic male carrying briefcase of his records, casually dressed, decently groomed, fair eye contact,

## Health Summary

**Patient:** Medina, Christopher J (1/18/1981)

**Date:** 4/2/2013

### ***Current Problems***

Alcohol dependence, unspecified, in remission  
Depressive disorder not elsewhere classified  
Thought disorder  
Unspecified episodic mood disorder  
Alcohol dependence, unspecified, in remission  
Depressive disorder not elsewhere classified  
Thought disorder  
Unspecified episodic mood disorder

### ***Current Medications***

### ***⚠ Allergies / Adverse Reactions***

### ***Past Medical History***

**Medina, Christopher J.** 01/18/1981

Office/Outpatient Visit

**Visit Date:** Tue, Apr 2, 2013 08:30 am

**Provider:** Joseph Sokal, MD (Supervisor: Joseph Sokal, MD)

**Location:** Psychiatry and Behavioral Health

Electronically signed by Joseph Sokal, MD on 04/02/2013 09:07:55 AM

Printed on 04/02/2013 at 9:08 am.

## **SUBJECTIVE:**

**CC:** Mood disorder, Unhappy with current dx.

**HPI:** CM returns today because he is pursuing disability and feels that the correct dx is bipolar but that is not how Dr. Potts dx him. I let him know that I do not know him well enough and do not have enough records to determine the best fit dx. I acknowledged that after his initial visit I had significant dx uncertainty. I also let him know that for the most part I do not help a patient pursue disability without having had a treatment relationship of about a year. He is currently taking Cymbalta which he got from his pain management doctor but he continues to reveal a negative world view in which he is almost always misunderstood and victimized. He reports multiple conflicts with others including his current therapist Paul Johnson. He would like me to call Paul Johnson to discuss his case which I agree to do. He also would like his medical records which I agree to provide.

### **ROS:**

CONSTITUTIONAL: Positive for **fatigue** ( **mild** ).

MUSCULOSKELETAL: Positive for **back pain** and **walks with a cane**.

## **OBJECTIVE:**

### **Exams:**

MENTAL STATUS EXAM:

GENERAL APPEARANCE: ( well developed; walks with a cane; **anxious** )

MOTORIC BEHAVIOR: ( No AIMS )

ATTITUDE: ( guarded, seems paranoid )

MOOD: ( sad )

AFFECT: ( appropriate to content )

SPEECH: ( rambling )

PERCEPTUAL DISORDERS: ( None )

THOUGHT CONTENT: ( Fleeting HI no intent )

THOUGHT PROCESS: ( illogical, tangential, perseveration )

SENSORIUM: ( clear )

CONCENTRATION AND CALCULATION: ( Patient's ability to pay attention is limited. ).

INTELLIGENCE/FUND OF KNOWLEDGE: ( Patient's is of average intelligence. Patient's fund of knowledge is average. )

JUDGEMENT: fair judgement;

INSIGHT: unable to assess;

**ASSESSMENT:** CM was hoping that I might be able to diagnose him with bipolar. I let him know that I do not know what the best fit dx is for him. I am convinced that he does have a formal thought disorder, is paranoid and that almost all of his relationships are highly conflicted. I have agreed to talk with his therapist. I have suggested he get comprehensive psych testing. I congratulated him on his ongoing sobriety.

296.90    Unspecified episodic mood disorder  
303.93    Alcohol dependence, unspecified, in remission  
298.9    Thought disorder

## **ORDERS:**

### **Other Orders:**

Psychotherapy pt&/family w/E&M svcs 30 min (In-House)

MSE- 31 y.o. short hispanic male carrying briefcase of his records, casually dressed, decently groomed, fair eye contact, no AIMS, speech- soft, limited prosody, affect- constricted, anxious, guarded, mood- seems depressed but denies feeling depressed for the most part, TP- Highly circumstantial, vague, avoidant, TC- no SI, HI or delusions, Denies perceptual disturbances, Cog- GI, J/I- Limited

ROS- General- no aches or chills, global pain/shaking Cardiac- denies palpitations, Pulmonary- denies SOB or dyspnea, no current cough, Musculoskeletal- shoulder pain  
see outside records for more detailed ROS

VSS- See outside records

**ASSESSMENT:** Very puzzling presentation of a young man with chronic pain, alcohol and cocaine abuse in remission, sexual addiction and prior dx of depression and bipolar disorder. Rather than describe his interior experience he immediately associates to his surrounding environment and describes details that lead him away from attending to himself. He appears to have little sense of control over himself or his life and often sees himself as a victim. Currently the only clear psychiatric problems he reports are his sexual addiction and anxiety. He does seem depressed to me though he does not report symptoms consistent with a MDD. It is also possible that he is malingering in an effort to get benzos ~~which would be consistent with his prior substance abuse~~. However my sense is that he is depressed. He may have MDD, Dysthymia or even Bipolar though I would need old records or collateral history to assess this. It also seems likely ~~that he has a personality disorder with cluster b traits~~. Because of his anxiety, chronic pain and at least some evidence for depression I recommended a trial of an AD. He was not interested in an AD. I let him know that I am unwilling to provide a benzo given his h/o of etoh abuse and the fact that his primary use for it appears to be pain management. I encouraged him to continue in his therapy and to pursue a focused treatment for his sexual addiction. I let him know that he is welcome to f/u with me but I did not set up a return eval. Instead I gave him my card and asked him to call and schedule if he would like to return. My reasoning for this is that he seemed very unmotivated for care here. If he chooses to call and schedule that would demonstrate motivation on his end.

311 Depressive disorder not elsewhere classified  
305.03 Alcohol abuse, in remission  
305.63 Cocaine abuse, in remission  
300.00 Anxiety state, unspecified

## ORDERS:

### Other Orders:

Psychiatric Diagnostic Evaluation w/Medical Svrs (In-House)

**PLAN:** 1. Recommended trial of AD- pt uninterested  
2. Continue therapy  
3. Will leave it to patient to call and reschedule.

### **Depressive disorder not elsewhere classified**

90792-Psyhiactic diagnositc evaluation WITH medical services

### Orders:

Psychiatric Diagnostic Evaluation w/Medical Svrs (In-House)

## ADDENDUMS:

Addendum: 01/07/2013 12:31 PM -

Visit Note Faxed to:



Unity Partners d.b.a. Project Unity  
P. O. Box 2812 Bryan, Texas 77805-2812  
(979) 595-2900 FAX (979) 595-2901  
[www.projectunitytx.org](http://www.projectunitytx.org)

December 23, 2013

**NOTICE OF INFORMAL HEARING RESULTS**

Dear Christopher Medina,

This letter serves to notify you of the results of your informal hearing conducted on Friday, December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2013:

**As determined by your informal hearing, your housing assistance from BVCOG will be terminated. Your housing assistance from BVCOG will cease on December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2013. Factual determinations relating to the individual circumstances of the family shall be based on a preponderance of the evidence presented at your hearing. The reason for my decision is that I agree with the preponderance of evidence presented by BVCOG at your Informal Hearing. The public housing authority presented a preponderance of evidence that was sufficient to propose a termination of your housing assistance.**

Please be aware that once this informal hearing decision has been made, the decision is final. This decision shall not constitute a waiver of, nor affect in any manner whatever, any rights the complainant may have to a trial de novo or judicial review in any judicial proceedings, which may thereafter be brought in the matter. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact BVCOG at (979) 595 – 2801 ext. 2081.

Sincerely,



Informal Hearing Officer for BVCOG



Funding and Support Provided by the Texas Department of Family & Protective Services • Bryan ISD

• City of Bryan • Brazos Valley Council of Governments • City of College Station

Brazos Valley Community Action Agency • Verizon Foundation • Children's Miracle Network • Brazos Food Bank • Bryan Texas Utilities • Community Donations • United Way of the Brazos Valley



